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ABSTRACT A system and method for providing a default source to program channel numbers. In one embodiment, the system allows a user to program overlapping channel numbers to a selected default source. The system includes at least one channel number usable by a plurality of sources for providing a station to transmit television programs. The system generates an electronic system guide identifying the plurality of/sources. The system allows a user to select one of the plurality of sources from the electronic system guide as a default source. The system programs the at least one channel number to tune to a station for receiving television programs provided by the selected default source. In another embodiment/the system programs automatically channel numbers. The system allows a user to select a first default source to program channel numbers. The system determines if there are over-lapping channel numbers, which are usable by a plurality of programming sources. If there are over-lapping channel numbers, the system lists the plurality of programming sources. The system allows a user to select a second default source among the listed plurality of programming sources to program the over-lapping channel numbers. The system the programs the over-lapping channel numbers to tune to a station provided by the selected second default source and program any non-over-lapping channel numbers to tune to a station provided by the selected first default source.